

June 15, 2011

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor, State of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601



Dear Governor Quinn:

In an effort to maximize economic benefits to the state of Illinois and south suburban communities, create jobs, and increase ancillary development, we urge you to sign Senate Bill 744 authorizing expansion of gaming in the state and the South Suburban region.

We are in the process of creating a Chicago Southland Entertainment and Tourism Commission to allow the Chicago Southland region to utilize the gaming license as a springboard to a much larger vision for our region. Our objective is to create a regional partnership to oversee the development of a Chicago Southland entertainment facility, including a casino, to offer a multi-dimensional experience for residents and visitors alike.

The goal of the Chicago Southland Entertainment and Tourism Commission will be to speak as one voice on the issue of casino development in the Chicago Southland region, arriving at a regional consensus based on careful consideration of land use planning, financing, developer needs, distribution of revenues, and reinvestment into the facility.

We envision a facility that will provide much more than a casino experience for visitors.

The Chicago Southland entertainment and casino development will provide much needed short and long-term jobs for local residents and bolster the revenues and workforces of associated suppliers and vendors. The development will create a new, year-round DESTINATION DRIVER for the south suburban region and enhance projects already underway and those in the planning stages, including the Interstate 57/294 Connection, the South Suburban Airport, Canadian National's Harvey Intermodal Terminal and the proposed Illiana Expressway, among others.

To continue as a viable economic driver for the State of Illinois, the creation of an entertainment/casino facility in the Chicago Southland region will be an important part of the regional development agenda.

Governor Quinn, we urge you to sign Senate Bill 744 to continue to move our region forward.

Sincerely,



Jim Garrett, President/CEO  
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Accredited Destination Management Marketing Organization



The following Chicago Southland elected officials and business leaders urge you to sign Senate Bill 744, authorizing expansion of gaming in the State and the Chicago Southland region:



U.S. Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)

State Senator Steven Landek (D-11<sup>th</sup>)

State Senator Emil Jones III (D-14<sup>th</sup>)

State Senator Donne Trotter (D-17<sup>th</sup>)

State Senator Edward Maloney (D-18<sup>th</sup>)

State Senator Maggie Crotty (D-19<sup>th</sup>)

State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D - 40<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Michael Zalewski (D-21<sup>st</sup>)

State Representative Daniel Burke (D-23<sup>rd</sup>)

State Representative Monique Davis (D-27<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Robert Rita (D-28<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Will Davis (D-30<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Mary Flowers (D-31<sup>st</sup>)

State Representative Constance Howard (D-34<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Kelly Burke (D-36<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Kevin McCarthy (D-37<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Al Riley (D-38<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Lisa Dugan (D-79<sup>th</sup>)

State Representative Anthony DeLuca (D-80<sup>th</sup>)

Edward Paesel, Executive Director  
South Suburban Mayors and Managers  
Association

Victoria Smith, Executive Director,  
Southwest Conference of Mayors

Lynwood Mayor Gene Williams, President  
South Suburban Mayors and Managers  
Association

Homewood Mayor Richard Hofeld  
Incoming President, South Suburban Mayors and  
Managers Association

Reggie Greenwood, Executive Director  
Chicago Southland Economic Development  
Corporation

Mike Scholefield, Chairman  
Chicago Southland Economic Development  
Corporation

John Thompson, Chairman  
Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors  
Bureau